

# Illinois Commission on the Elimination of Poverty

## 2013 Legislative Agenda

Current as of March 8, 2013

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### ***Leadership Agenda***

The Poverty Commission opposes cuts to programs which have a significant role in lifting individuals and families out of poverty and supports eliminating disproportionate cuts to programs and services that serve the most vulnerable – the 7% of Illinoisans experiencing extreme poverty.

### ***Supportive Agenda***

#### **SB0068 - Increase the Minimum Wage**

*Sponsor: Sen. Kimberly Lightford*

**Bill Synopsis:** The bill provides a procedure for increasing the minimum wage annually to restore the minimum wage to its historic level and thereafter increases the minimum wage by the increase in the cost of living during the preceding year.

#### **SB1708 - Domestic Workers Bill of Rights**

*Sponsor: Sen. Ira Silverstein, William Delgado, Kimberly Lightford, Patricia VanPelt, Iris Martinez*

**Bill Synopsis:** Establishes the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights. Domestic workers have historically been exempted from laws governing the rights afforded to other workers - decent wages, a safe and healthy workplace, workers compensation, and other basic labor protections. The bill provides a set of workplace and benefit standards and removes the domestic worker exclusion from the Minimum Wage Act, the Human Rights Act, and the Wages of Women and Minors Act.

#### **HB2262 - TANF Asset Limits**

*Sponsor: Rep. Robyn Gabel, Cynthia Soto, Emanuel Chris Welch*

#### **SB2319 - TANF Asset Limits**

*Sponsor: Sen. Mattie Hunter, Patricia VanPelt, Heather Steans, Don Harmon*

**Bill Synopsis:** This bill amends the Public Aid Code to remove the asset limit test as a condition of eligibility for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.

#### **SB2400 - Illinois Automatic IRA Act**

*Sponsor: Sen. Daniel Biss, Iris Martinez, Don Harmon, Jacqueline Collins, Martin Sandoval*

#### **HB2461 – Illinois Automatic IRA Act**

*Sponsor: Rep. Deborah Mell, Barbara Flynn Currie, Monique Davis*

**Bill Synopsis:** Creates the Illinois Automatic IRA Program Act, a Program shall be administered by the State Treasurer. The bills allow employees of certain employers that have not offered a qualified retirement plan for 2 years to set aside a percentage of their wages to be deposited into an IRA trust fund administered by the State Treasurer's office.

**SB0026 – Medicaid Expansion**

*Sponsors: Sens. Heather Steans, David Koehler, William Delgado, Iris Martinez, Jacqueline Collins, Daniel Biss, Michael Hastings, and Patricia Van Pelt*

**HB0106 – Medicaid – Medicaid Expansion**

*Sponsors: Reps. Sara Feigenholtz, Elizabeth Hernandez, William Davis, Barbara Flynn Curre, Rita Mayfield*

**Bill Synopsis:** Will enable Illinois to receive **\$4.6 billion in federal funding**, from 2014 – 2016, to provide healthcare for 342,000 uninsured, low-income adults without dependent children.

**SB0034 - Health Insurance Exchange**

*Sponsors: Sens. David Koehler, Heather Steans, Don Harmon, Toi Hutchinson, William Delgado & Jacqueline Collins.*

**Bill Synopsis:** SB0034 sets up a state-based Health Benefits Exchange beginning October 1, 2014.

**SMART Act Trailer Bill**

**Bill Synopsis:** Technical language fixes and Restoration of some cuts made in FY2013 SMART Act.

**SB1702 - Ensuring Success in Schools**

*Sponsors: Sen. Kimberly Lightford, William Delgado*

**HB2213 - Ensuring Success in Schools**

*Sponsor: Rep. LaShawn Ford, Monique Davis, Barbara Wheeler, Camille Lilly*

**Bill Synopsis:** Students who are parents, expectant parents, or the victims of domestic or sexual violence face barriers to school success and school completion. The bill amends the School Code to include provisions that ensure the health, safety, and academic success of elementary and secondary students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence. The bill is based upon the recommendations of the Ensuring Success in School Task Force's report to the Illinois General Assembly, submitted in June 2010 (<http://www.povertylaw.org/advocacy/women-and-family/essa-task-force/essa-task-force-report>). Provisions include expanding what constitutes a "valid cause" for absences to include students' pregnancy-related and parenting responsibilities-related absences and absences for circumstances related to domestic or sexual violence; accommodations for students to ensure their health and safety in school; confidentiality protocols; and "specially trained personnel"—a "go-to" person for confidential guidance and referrals for students, teachers and other school personnel when issues related to this student population arises. The bill also amends the Student Records Act regarding the release of information related to a student's status as a parent, expectant parent, or victim of domestic or sexual violence.

**HB3061 - Criminal ID - Felony Sealing**

*Sponsor: Rep. La Shawn Ford, Thaddeus Jones, Elizabeth Hernandez, Elaine Nekritz, Kelly Cassidy*

**Bill Synopsis:** This bill expands eligibility for the sealing of non-violent felony offense records, from the current number of just three eligible offenses. The most common offenses that would become eligible

under this new legislation include: theft, forgery, retail theft, possession with intent, and burglary. This bill passed out of the State Government Administration Committee on Thursday, March 8, 2012.

#### **SB1602 - Protecting Tenants against Foreclosure**

*Sponsors: Sen. Jacqueline Collins, Iris Martinez, Mattie Hunter, William Delgado, John Mulroe*

**Bill Synopsis:** This bill will make permanent federal protections for tenants, which will sunset at the end of this year. These protections include adequate notice to move and that a lease survives a foreclosure.

#### **Fair Tax Act**

**Bill Synopsis:** This bill will put a question on the ballot whether the state constitution should change to allow for a graduated income tax. This would allow for changes to the tax code that could generate significantly more revenue and minimize cuts to programs and services that support individuals experiencing poverty.

#### **Debt Restructuring**

**Bill Synopsis:** Authorizes the State to issue general obligation bonds with a low interest rate for sale to the public to generate money to be used to pay that State's past due bills owed to small businesses, human service providers, hospitals, universities, school districts and local governments.

### ***Defensive Agenda***

#### **HB0133 – DHS Food Stamps – Photo ID Card**

*Sponsor: Rep. John Cavaletto*

**Bill Synopsis:** Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code to require that on and after January 1, 2014, electronic benefits transfer cards ("LINK") used to obtain food stamp benefits or cash shall contain the name and photo of the primary cardholder and, at the option of the primary cardholder, the names of secondary holders who are authorized to use the card. The bill establishes that an individual may only use the LINK card if the photo on the card matches the user or he or she presents a current and valid photo identification that confirms he or she is a secondary user listed on the card.

#### **HB0134 – Public Aid – TANF Drug Screening**

*Sponsors: Rep. John Cavaletto and Rep. Jil Tracy*

**Bill Synopsis:** Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code to require the Department of Human Services to require a drug test to screen each individual who applies for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and that subject to federal approval, the Department shall require a drug test to screen each individual who applies for benefits under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

#### **HB0174 – Drug Abuse – Election –Public Aid**

*Sponsors: Reps. Bill Mitchell, Dwight Kay, Adam Brown and Brad Halbrook*

**Bill Synopsis:** Amends the Election Code to require substance abuse testing as a condition for filing nomination papers for the office of State Representative or State Senator. The bill amends the Illinois Public Aid Code to require IDHS to include a drug test to screen each individual who applies for TANF. The cost of drug testing shall be the responsibility of the individual tested and that an individual who

tests positive for controlled substances shall be ineligible to receive TANF benefits for one year after the date of the positive drug test, unless the individual meets certain requirements.

#### **HB0177 – DHS-Food Stamps-Child Obesity**

*Sponsors: Rep. Bill Mitchell*

**Bill Synopsis:** HB1077 amends the Illinois Public Code to allow the Secretary of Human Services to seek a waiver from the US Dept. of Agriculture to allow the state to specify certain foods that may and may not be purchased in Illinois with the benefits funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill requires the Secretary to consult with members of the General Assembly in developing the waiver and to obtain approval from the General Assembly before implementing the waiver.

#### **HB1234 – TANF Drug Testing**

*Sponsor: Rep. Jim Sacia*

**Bill Synopsis:** Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code allows DHS to require substance abuse testing as a condition for assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF ) program. The bill requires DHS to implement a pilot program of substance abuse testing as a condition for TANF eligibility in at least 3 counties, followed by statewide implementation after certain steps have been completed.

#### **HB1235 – DHS Food Stamps – Photo ID Card**

*Sponsor: Rep. Jim Sacia*

**Bill Synopsis:** Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code to require that every electronic benefits transfer (“LINK”) card issued on or after the effective date by IDHS for the purpose of enabling the cardholder to obtain SNAP benefits (formerly food stamps) or cash must include on the card’s face a photograph of the cardholder. The bill also requires that within 6 months after the effective date, IDHS must replace every still-valid card issued before the date with a card that includes on its face a photograph of the cardholder. It also requires the Department to issue a caregiver identification card to the facility provider, guardian, or caregiver of a person entitled to benefits funded under the federal SNAP program.

**Relevant Recommendations:** Identify rules, policies, practices and procedures that hinder the participation of eligible people in safety net programs and take effective action to remove barriers.

#### **HB1507 – TANF - Substance Abuse Testing**

*Sponsor: Rep. Dwight Kay*

**Bill Synopsis:** Amends the TANF Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code to establish a program of substance abuse testing as a condition of eligibility for benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program. Requires that IDHS submit all TANF applicants to submit to substance testing before a final determination of eligibility and determines an applicant ineligible for TANF benefits if (i) the applicant tests positive for substance abuse or (ii) the applicant refuses to submit to substance abuse testing. If an applicant tests negative for substance abuse and meets all the other eligibility requirements for TANF benefits, the cost of administering the substance abuse test to the applicant shall be deducted from the applicant’s first benefits payment.

#### **SB1719 – DHS – TANF – SNAP – GA – Drug Testing**

*Sponsor: Sen. Kyle McCarter*

**Bill Synopsis:** Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code to require all applicants of TANF and SNAP to pass a drug screening as a condition of eligibility and requires random drug screenings. Requires photo

identification when using a LINK card to obtain SNAP benefits or cash and prohibits TANF recipients from using his or her benefits to purchase lottery tickets or to patronize any casino licensed establishment that operates video gaming terminals for the purpose of engaging in gambling or video gaming activities.

**SB2311 – Public Aid – TANF – Drug Screening**

*Sponsor: Sen. Darin M. LaHood*

**Bill Synopsis:** Amends the TANF Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code requiring a drug test to screen each individual who applies for TANF.

**SB2165 – Public Aid – Drug Screening**

*Sponsor: Sen. Chapin Rose*

**Bill Synopsis:** Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code to require that applicants must pass a drug screening as a condition of initial eligibility for any benefits under the Code and must pass random drug screening as prescribed by the Department of Human Services or the Department of Healthcare and Family Services.